

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 38, add new claims 40-49 and cancel claims 9-12, 18-20, 26, 29-30, 36, 37 and 39 as set forth below.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-37. (Canceled)

38. (Currently Amended) In combination, a chest tube and a heartwire secured thereto;

said heartwire comprising a wire having a proximal end and a distal end, at least part of the distal end being conductive so as to be usable in heart stimulation; and

attached to said distal end, an end structure comprising an irregular or three-dimensional,atraumatic structure adapted for engaging a surgical material secured to the heart, for maintaining said heartwire in position relative to said surgical material and to said heart;

wherein said heartwire is disposed in a groove formed in a peripheral wall of said chest tube;

wherein said heartwire is removable from said groove while still maintaining said heartwire in position relative to said surgical material and to said heart; and

The combination of claim 37, wherein said groove is covered by a film which encloses said heartwire in said groove and is releasable for removing said heartwire from said groove.

39. (Canceled)

40. (New) The combination of claim 38, wherein atraumatic structure is a pledget.

41. (New) The combination of claim 40, wherein saidatraumatic structure further comprises a prolene suture.
42. (New) The combination of claim 38, wherein said distal end of said heartwire is a pigtail.
43. (New) The combination of claim 38, wherein said distal end of said heartwire is a tine.
44. (New) The combination of claim 38, wherein said distal end of said heartwire is a coil.
45. (New) The combination of claim 38, wherein said distal end of the heartwire is a hook.
46. (New) The combination of claim 38, further comprising a second heartwire secured to said chest tube.
47. (New) The combination of claim 46, wherein said second heartwire is disposed in a second groove formed in said peripheral wall of said chest tube.
48. (New) The combination of claim 47, wherein said second heartwire is removable from said second groove while still maintaining said second heartwire in position relative to said surgical material and to said heart.
49. (New) The combination of claim 48, wherein a distal end of said second heartwire is a pigtail.